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a semiconductor storage device storing information about the ink carried by said cartridge; and

a plurality of contacts for connecting said semiconductor storage device to the ink jet printing apparatus, the contacts being formed in a plurality of rows so that one of said rows is closer to said exit opening of said ink supply port than an other of said rows, the row of said contacts which is closest to said exit opening of said ink supply port being longer than the row of said contacts which is furthest from said exit opening of said ink supply port.

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment Before Action makes various minor changes of form to claim

31. Claims 23 and 31 are independent.

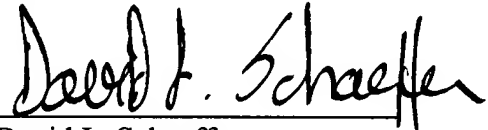
Claim 31 has been revised to clarify that the rows are defined in terms of their positions relative to the exit opening of the ink supply port, the exit opening being the lowermost point on the ink supply port (the term ink supply port, as used in the specification, corresponds, for example, to the stepped cylindrical structure 44 depicted in Fig. 3 and discussed at page 5 of the specification).

These claim changes involve matters of form, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims. In making these changes Applicants do not intend to relinquish any claim protection that is available, either literally or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

No fee is believed to be due. Nevertheless, should any fee now or hereafter be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application remains in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David L. Schaeffer  
Registration No. 32,716  
Attorney for Applicants  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP  
180 Maiden Lane  
New York, New York 10038  
212-806-5400

Attachment: "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made"

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claim 31:

31. (Thrice amended) An ink cartridge for mounting on a carriage of an ink jet printing apparatus and for supplying ink to a printhead of said ink jet printing apparatus through an ink supply needle, the ink cartridge comprising:

a plurality of external walls defining at least some of a chamber;

an ink supply port for receiving said ink supply needle, the ink supply port having an exit opening and a centerline and communicating with the chamber;

a semiconductor storage device storing information about the ink carried by said cartridge; and

a plurality of contacts for connecting said semiconductor storage device to the ink jet printing apparatus, the contacts being formed in a plurality of rows so that one of said rows is closer to said exit opening of said ink supply port than an other of said rows, the row of said contacts which is closest to said exit opening of said ink supply port being longer than the row of said contacts which is furthest from said exit opening of said ink supply port.